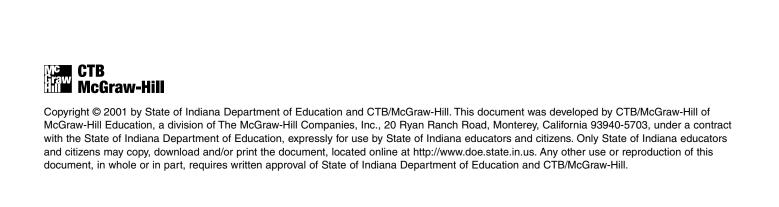
Guide to Test Interpretation



Graduation Qualifying Exam Retest Spring 2001







A Message from Dr. Suellen Reed

Dear Administrators, Teachers, Parents, and Students,

You are receiving the results from the *ISTEP+* Spring 2001 *Graduation Qualifying Exam Retest*. The spring retest is one of five opportunities students have to meet the Indiana Academic Standard in English/language arts and/or mathematics. This *Guide to Test Interpretation* provides explanations of the reports as well as terms that are in the reports. The use of the information contained both in this guide and *ISTEP+* reports is critical to improving the achievement of the students taking the test and the instruction provided to all our students.

The format of the *ISTEP+* reports was changed with the Fall 1999 administration to provide more readily understandable and usable documents for those who need this information. The Spring 2001 reports are provided in this same format.

The reports that accompany the *Guide to Test Interpretation* are designed to facilitate the teacher's ability to use the test results in evaluating curriculum and helping individual students. A great deal of care has gone into the design and structure of these reports. This is true not only for the *ISTEP+* reporting format, but also for *ISTEP+* overall. We now have in place a system of which we can be proud—a system that meets all the essential objectives of an outstanding statewide assessment system.

Several years of hard work have been required to reach this point where we now have comparable test results over a period of years and have reports that can really explain how well students are performing. We could not have reached this point without the suggestions and observations from hundreds of educators and other citizens. Since we always are looking for ways to improve *ISTEP+*, I look forward to receiving additional suggestions for improvement.

This year marks the fourteenth anniversary of passage of the A+ Program, of which *ISTEP+* was a significant component. With the established administration of the *Graduation Qualifying Exam*, we now have a tool to help teachers and parents measure the knowledge and skills that our students are expected to learn. We must continue to provide a positive stimulus for improvement of public education in Indiana.

Sincerely,

Dr. Suellen Reed

Superintendent of Public Instruction

Dr. Suellen Reed

Contents

Understanding I	STEP+ GQE Retest Results	1
	The ISTEP+ Testing Program	3
	Criterion-Referenced Scores	4
	Summary Score Information	6
Reports for Teac	chers	7
	Student Report	7
	Proficiency Roster (class)	10
	Class Essential Skills Report	12
	Applied Skills Student Report	14
	Undetermined Status Roster (class)	16
Reports for the	School Administrator	18
	Proficiency Roster (school)	18
	Graduation Retest Roster	20
	Disaggregation Summary Report (school)	22
	• ISTEP+ Graduation Test Labels	23
	Applied Skills Frequency Distribution	24
Reports for the	Corporation Administrator	26
	Essential Skills Summary (corporation)	26
	Group Essential Skills Summary	28
	Disaggregation Summary Report (corporation)	30
	Applied Skills Frequency Distribution	32
	Undetermined Status Roster (corporation)	34
	Academic Standards Frequency Distribution	36
Reference		38
	Glossary	38
	Sample Letter to Parents	40

Understanding ISTEP+ GQE Retest Results

ISTEP+ report forms

This Guide to Test Interpretation will help you understand *ISTEP+* GQE Retest results and report forms in order to apply the results toward improving educational opportunities for students. This guide will also help you prepare to answer questions from parents, students, and other members of the educational community regarding *ISTEP+* results. Toward this end, a Sample Letter to Parents is included at the end of this guide for your use.

Each *ISTEP+* report is designed to present clearly the information most useful to you and to parents. The audience and student populations included in each of the *ISTEP+* reports are listed below.

ISTEP+ Report Inform	nation	
Report	Number of Copies	Student Population*
For Teachers		
Student Report	2	✓
Proficiency Roster (class)	1	✓
Class Essential Skills Report	1	✓
Applied Skills Student Report	2	✓
Undetermined Status Roster (teacher, administrator)	1 each	✓
For School Administrators		
Proficiency Roster (school)	1	✓
Graduation Retest Roster	1	✓
Disaggregation Summary Report (school)	1	✓
ISTEP+ Graduation Test Labels (pass and retest)	1 each	✓
Applied Skills Frequency Distribution	1	✓
For Corporation Administrators		
Proficiency Roster (school)	1	✓
Disaggregation Summary Report (school)	1	✓
Group Essential Skills Summary	1	✓
Applied Skills Frequency Distribution (school)	1	✓
Essential Skills Summary (corporation)	2	✓
Graduation Retest Roster	1	✓
Disaggregation Summary Report (corporation)	2	✓
Applied Skills Frequency Distribution (corporation)	1	✓
Undetermined Status Roster (corporation)	1	✓
Academic Standards Frequency Distribution	1	✓

^{*} The student population includes regular education students and those Special Education students determined by their case conference committee to be fully eligible for the *ISTEP+* program. It also includes students for whom the assessments were administered with special accommodations.

Students must be administered the sections of the GQE Basic Skills test and the Applied Skills test that relate to the content areas (mathematics and/or English/language arts) in which they are testing. A student will receive score reports only if a Basic Skills test was taken and returned to CTB for scoring.

Note: Failure to return both the completed Basic Skills and Applied Skills I documents will result in a student receiving a status of UNDETERMINED on the GQE Retest.

Copies of the student answers to the constructed response items, as they appeared in the Applied Skills test book, will be returned to the teachers for their assistance in reviewing the student's performance. The teacher may use these papers, in conjunction with information in the *Teacher's Scoring Guide*, to assist in further evaluating a student's strengths and needs. A copy of the Applied Skills Student Report is included in the package with the student responses.

Before you can interpret and apply the information in the reports, you must understand the meaning of the scores presented. If you are unfamiliar with *ISTEP+* or the testing and scoring terms, please read the next three sections carefully. If you need just a quick review, skim the glossary at the end of this guide.

When you are confident in your understanding, read the section that describes how to interpret *ISTEP+* reports and how best to apply test results in your job.

The ISTEP+ Testing Program

What can you learn from *ISTEP+*?

Taxpayers, parents, and educators are asking many questions about instructional programs as Indiana strives to build a brighter future by providing the best possible education for its young people. Questions such as the following are commonly asked:

"Are all of our students acquiring the skills they need to succeed?"

"What kind of individual instruction would help my child?"

ISTEP+ provides information to help you answer such questions and support the instructional choices you make for your students. *ISTEP+* reports can quickly show you the following:

- To what extent an individual student has mastered Essential Skills in the English/language arts and mathematics content areas.
- To what extent the students in your classroom, school, and corporation as a group are attaining mastery of Essential Skills.
- Where the students in your class, school, or corporation stand relative to the Indiana Academic Standards established by the State Board of Education (see page 4 for performance category definitions).

What makes ISTEP+ scores meaningful?

No test score has meaning by itself. To have meaning, a score must be compared or referenced against some standard or norm. For example, a student's score of 19 on a spelling test means very little until you know more facts, such as the number of words on the test, the number of words the other students spelled correctly, or the teacher's standard for a passing grade.

The Graduation Qualifying Exam (GQE) Retest

The Graduation Qualifying Exam (GQE) Retest is a criterion-referenced test. It consists of items that assess a student's performance with respect to particular criteria, in this case, to the Indiana Academic Standards established by the State Board of Education.

The GQE does not provide norm-referenced information, that is, it does not compare the performance of Indiana students with that of students across the nation.

Criterion-Referenced Scores

Criterion-referenced scores indicate where a student stands in relation to the established Indiana Academic Standards, as well as relative to Indiana's Essential Skills. The most valuable application of criterion-referenced information is to identify a student's strengths and needs and to plan appropriate instruction.

Criterion-referenced scores are presented by Essential Skills within each content area, as follows:

Criterion-Referenced Score Categories			
Domain	English/language arts	Mathematics	
Essential Skills	3.1 Construct Meaning 3.2 Elaborate on Meaning	3.1-3 Probsolv/Comm/Reas 3.4 Whole Number Sense	
	:	:	

Indiana Academic Standards

To promote student academic achievement, the State Board of Education has adopted challenging content standards. A student who scores AT or ABOVE the Indiana Academic Standard in English/language arts or mathematics demonstrates the mastery of these content standards. A student who scores BELOW the Indiana Academic Standard may require remedial assistance in order to pass the Graduation Qualifying Exam (GQE).

In addition, an UNDETERMINED category is reported for any student whose *ISTEP+* scores for English/language arts and/or mathematics are incomplete (i.e., all or part of a test was not taken or was considered invalid by the examiner). The phrase "did not retest" will be used to identify content areas not attempted by students during the retest.

Essential Skill Scores

Indiana's Essential Skills are listed by subject on the Student Report, the Applied Skills Student Report, the Essential Skills Report, and the Essential Skills Summary.

The Indiana Performance Index (IPI) is used to indicate a student's performance on the Essential Skills. This is a statistical value that reflects the number of items a student would have answered correctly if the student had responded to 100 items like the ones actually on the test. It is a better measure of the student's performance than a simple percentage of correct answers to a small number of questions.

On the Student Report, next to each Essential Skill description, the student's IPI is shown, along with the IPI for a student at the standard, and the difference between the two scores.

The Class Essential Skills Report indicates whether students have mastered each Essential Skill. Symbols appear on this report indicating: 1) mastery, 2) nonmastery, 3) if there were too few score points to assess mastery conclusively, and 4) if a subtest was omitted or invalid. Mastery of an Essential Skill indicates that the student achieved an IPI that is equal to or greater than the IPI for a student at the standard.

The Corporation Essential Skills Report provides a summary of students' performance for all schools in the corporation.

For classes and larger groups, *ISTEP+* reports provide information for all Essential Skills in the form of the mean IPI achieved by the group.

Note: All sample reports shown in this guide contain simulated data only.

Sample Letter to Parents

To help the teacher explain the *ISTEP+* reports to parents, a Sample Letter to Parents is provided at the end of this book. You may duplicate or edit the letter to make it appropriate for your use.

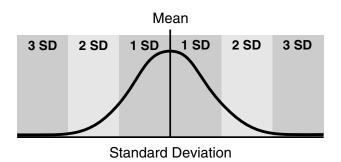
Summary Score Information

Mean and median scores

On *ISTEP+* reports, summary information for a group (such as a class) is often presented using mean or median scores. The mean is the average score obtained by adding all scores in the group and dividing by the number of students in the group. The median is the middle score (50% of the scores fall below it).

Standard deviation

The standard deviation (SD) indicates the amount of variability in a group of scores. When scores are normally distributed (i.e., when they are part of a bell-shaped, "normal" curve), about two-thirds of the scores are within one SD above and below the average (mean) score and about 95% of scores are within 2 SDs of the mean. In almost any shaped distribution, all scores will be within 5 standard deviations of the mean score.



Standard error of measurement

When analyzing and interpreting scores, keep in mind that test results are descriptions of a single performance by an individual or group. From these descriptions, you can make inferences about the performance or skills of the students. However, because the score for any single test may not represent an individual's true ability, you must take into account the standard error of measurement (SEM).

Some measurement error is associated with any test score. The standard error of measurement estimates the amount of error you can expect in a particular score from a particular test. This statistic provides a range within which a student's true score is likely to fall. You should always acknowledge the reality of error in measurement and take the SEM into account, especially when using test scores to support critical instructional decisions.

This means you should not think of an obtained score as an absolute value. Instead, consider it as a point within a range that probably includes a student's true score. (A student's "true score" is the hypothetical average score that would result if the student could take the test repeatedly without being affected by practice, fatigue, or additional learning.) It is expected that 68% of the time a student's score obtained from a single testing would fall within one SEM of that student's true score and that 95% of the time the obtained score would fall within two SEMs of the true score.

Student Report

The Student Report presents test information to parents in ways that are easy to understand. It encourages them to discuss their child's strengths and needs with you and helps them become more involved in the child's learning process. Two copies of this report are provided. One copy is for teacher use and one copy is for the parent.

Criterion-Referenced Information

The top section of this report, called "Indiana Academic Standards," reports the student's skill scores in English/language arts and mathematics and relates these scores to the Indiana Academic Standards established by the State Board of Education (see page 4 for definition).

The center section lists the Essential Skills measured by the GQE Retest. Next to each skill, the student's academic performance is indicated by the Indiana Performance Index (see page 4 for definition). A comparison to the standard IPI for each Essential Skill is also shown in graphical format.

The bottom section of this report template typically provides norm-referenced score information. However, the norm-referenced test is not administered during the GQE Retest.

Sample Student Report

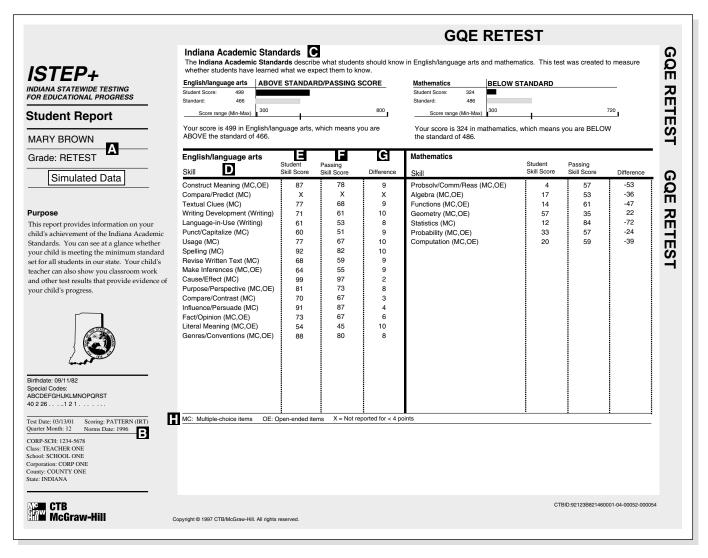
The sample student report presents results for Mary Brown, a retest student. The top section of the report describes Mary's performance as measured against the Indiana Academic Standards, and it shows her achievement as a student score compared with the standard score adopted by the Board of Education.

On the same report, the GQE Essential Skills are listed. Reading to the right of the first Essential Skill, Construct Meaning, you will see that Mary achieved a Student Skill Score of 87 as compared to the Passing Skill Score of 78, or a difference of 9 points higher than the Passing Skill Score.

Mary's English/language arts total score is reported in two ways:

- the Student Skill Score for each Essential Skill, and
- a student score of 499 (see "Indiana Academic Standards" in area C).

This student score indicates that Mary scored above the Indiana Academic Standard in English/language arts. Her score of 324 in mathematics is below the Indiana Academic Standard for that content area.



Highlights of the Student Report

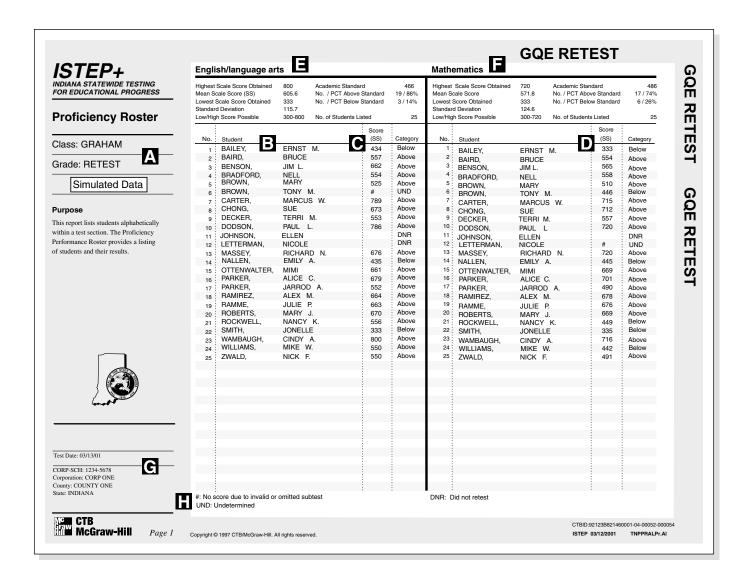
- A Presents the student's name and grade level.
- Indicates the test date and the Quarter Month upon which norm-referenced scores are based. Also identifies the student's location by corporation-school number, class, school, corporation, county, and state.
- Explains the student's performance relative to the Indiana Academic Standards established by the Board of Education.
- **D** Lists Essential Skills, grouped by content area.
- Presents the Student Skill Score that the student obtained.
- Indicates the Passing Skill Score for a student meeting the standard for this specific Essential Skill.
- **G** Shows the difference (+ or -) between the Student Skill Score and the Passing Skill Score for a student at the standard.
- H Defines symbols and acronyms used on the report.

Proficiency Roster

This report lists all students in the class alphabetically and tells the teacher the performance category above or below the Indiana Academic Standards (see page 4 for definition) of each student in the content areas of English/language arts and mathematics. Also shown is the scale score for each student in each of the content areas.

In the upper portion of the report, summary information is given for the class as a whole. Shown for each of the two content areas are the class average (mean scale score), the standard deviation, the lowest and highest scale scores obtained by the students in the group, and the lowest and highest possible scores.

The group's performance is also compared to the academic standard to show the number and percentage of students above and below the standard.



Highlights of the Proficiency Roster

- A Identifies the class by teacher name and grade level.
- **B** Lists students alphabetically within the class.
- Provides each student's scale score and performance category within the English/language arts content area.
- **D** Provides each student's scale score and performance category within the mathematics content area.
- **E** Provides English/language arts summary information for the class.
- Provides mathematics summary information for the class.
- **G** Indicates the test date and identifies the class by corporation-school number, corporation, county, and state.
- H Defines the symbols and acronyms used on this report.

Class Essential Skills Report

The Class Essential Skills Report presents Essential Skill information for all the students in your class on a single report. It presents mastery information for each student and summarizes the performance of the class as a whole.

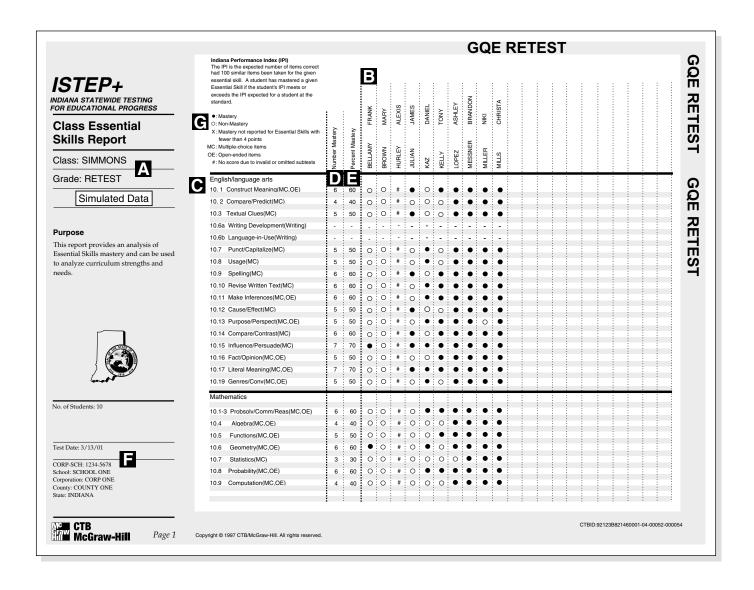
Essential Skills Information

The name of each student in the class appears in alphabetical order across the top of the report. The column below the student's name presents mastery information for that student. The Essential Skills for the grade appear on the left side of the report.

To the right of each Essential Skill the following information appears:

- the number of students who mastered the Essential Skill, and
- the percentage of students in the class who mastered the Essential Skill.

You can use this information to identify areas in which students may need additional instruction.

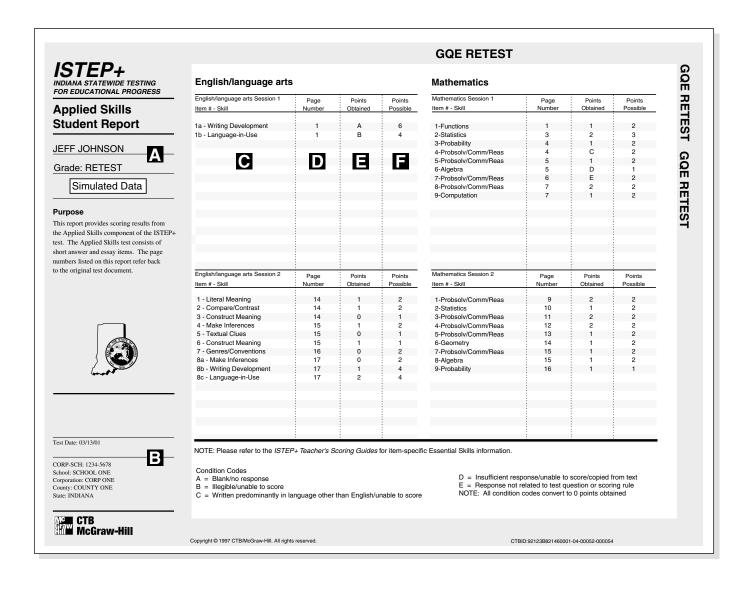


Highlights of the Class Essential Skills Report

- A Identifies the class by teacher name and grade level.
- **B** Lists students alphabetically by name from left to right.
- **C** Lists Essential Skills for the grade.
- **D** Presents the number of students who mastered the Essential Skill.
- E Shows the percentage of students who mastered the Essential Skill (see page 4 for definition of "Mastery").
- Indicates the test date, and identifies the class by corporation-school number, school, corporation, county, and state.
- **G** Defines the symbols and acronyms used in the report.

Applied Skills Student Report

The Applied Skills Student Report lists individual student test results for each Applied Skills item by content area and test session. It provides the number of points the student obtained on each item, as well as the maximum number of points possible. This report is used in conjunction with the *Teacher's Scoring Guides* and the imaged student responses to help the teacher explain the scores and the scoring process. Imaged student responses will be returned along with the Applied Skills Student Report.



Sample Applied Skills Student Report

The sample Applied Skills Student Report provides test results for Jeff Johnson. Under English/language arts, session two, one can observe that item number 1 of this session is located on page 14 of the imaged student responses and that Jeff scored one point out of two points possible for this item.

Highlights of the Applied Skills Student Report

- A Identifies the student name and grade level.
- **B** Indicates the test date and student location by corporation-school number, school, corporation, county, and state.
- **C** Lists each item and its Essential Skill by subject and test session.
- **D** Indicates the page number on which the item appears in the test book.
- Presents the number of score points that the student obtained for the given Applied Skills item, or, if no score, the letter of the condition code.

Condition Codes

A = Blank/no response

B = Illegible/unable to score

C = Written predominantly in language other than English/unable to score

D = Insufficient response/unable to score/copied from text

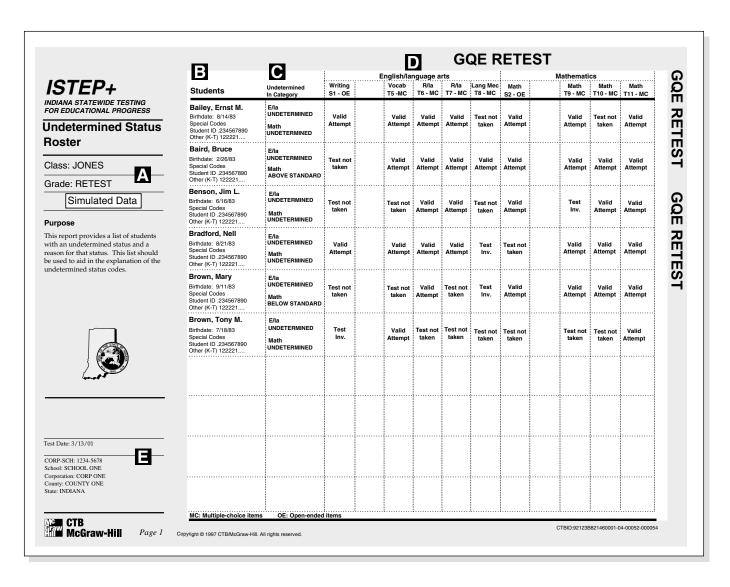
E = Response not related to test question or scoring rule

Note: All condition codes convert to 0 points obtained

F Indicates the number of points possible for the given Applied Skills item.

Undetermined Status Roster

This report provides a list of all students in the class who have an undetermined status. Students who fail to complete one or more subtests of the Applied Skills Assessment in English/language arts or mathematics are listed as undetermined. The report indicates whether the subtest was not taken or was invalidated, thus explaining the reason for the undetermined status.

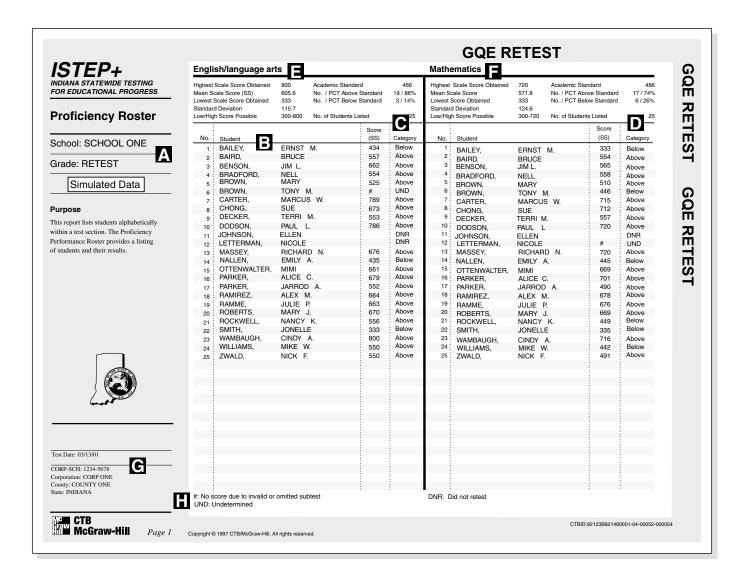


Highlights of the Undetermined Status Roster

- A Identifies the class by teacher name and grade level.
- **B** Lists alphabetically students who have an undetermined status in either English/language arts or mathematics.
- C Indicates whether the undetermined status is in English/language arts or mathematics.
- **D** Indicates which subtest was not completed.
- Indicates the test date and identifies the class by corporation-school number, school, corporation, county, and state.

Proficiency Roster

This report lists all students in the school, by grade, alphabetically, and tells the principal how each student performed in the content areas of English/language arts and mathematics (see page 4 for definition). Also shown is the scale score for each student in each of the content areas.

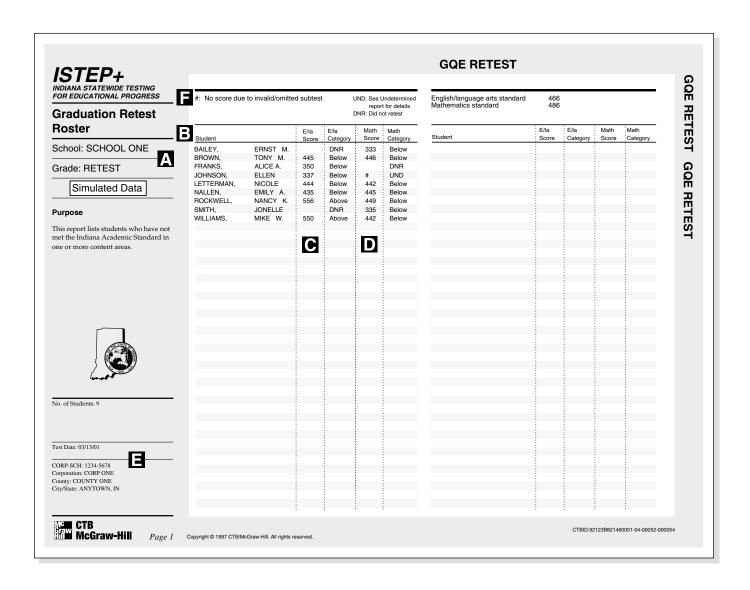


Highlights of the Proficiency Roster

- A Identifies the school and the grade level.
- **B** Lists students alphabetically within the school for the grade tested.
- Provides each student's scale score and performance category (see page 4 for definition) within the English/language arts content area.
- Provides each student's scale score and performance category (see page 4 for definition) within the mathematics content area.
- **E** Provides English/language arts summary information for the school.
- **F** Provides mathematics summary information for the school.
- **G** Indicates the test date and identifies the school by corporation-school number, corporation, county, and state.
- **H** Defines the symbols and acronyms used in the report.

Graduation Retest Roster

This report lists alphabetically those students who fell below the standard, based on the Spring 2001 Graduation Qualifying Examination in either or both subject areas. It also shows the performance category and scale score for each student in each of the content areas.

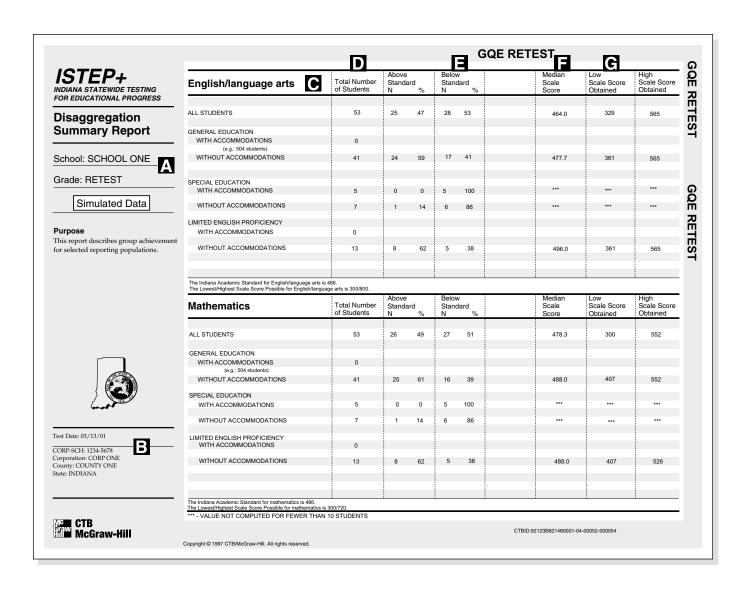


Highlights of the Graduation Retest Roster

- A Identifies the school and grade level.
- **B** Lists students alphabetically within the school who will need to be administered a GQE retest.
- Provides each student's scale score and performance category (see page 4 for definition) within the English/language arts content area.
- Provides each student's scale score and performance category (see page 4 for definition) within the mathematics content area.
- Indicates the test date and identifies the school by corporation-school number, corporation, county, and state.
- **F** Defines the symbols and acronyms used in the report.

Disaggregation Summary Report

The Disaggregation Summary Report presents, by subject, the total number of students with scores identified as above the standard and below the standard. This information is provided for all students, as well as various subgroups, e.g., special education students with accommodations and without accommodations. The Disaggregation Summary Report can be used to obtain information regarding various groups of students.



Highlights of the Disaggregation Summary Report

- A Identifies the school and grade level.
- **B** Indicates the test date, corporation-school number, corporation, county, and state.
- C Identifies the subgroups by subject. The Limited English Proficient (LEP) students are included in the general education or special education student counts.
- **D** Lists the total number of students.
- Indicates the number and percent of students above standard and below standard.
- Indicates the median scale scores. (Not computed for groups with fewer than 10 students).
- **G** Indicates the lowest and highest scale scores obtained.

Graduation Test Labels

An individual student label is provided for each student and for each subject area. These student labels indicate the student's status relative to meeting the standard in English/language arts and mathematics. Separate *green* labels are provided for each subject passed. Separate *yellow* labels are provided for each subject **not** passed.

GQE RESULTS Grade RETEST ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS: ABOVE

Name: ALLEN MARIA M

School: SCHOOL ONE Standard: 466 Test Date: 03/13/01 Obtained: 525 Pass Label (green)

GQE RESULTS Grade RETEST MATHEMATICS: BELOW

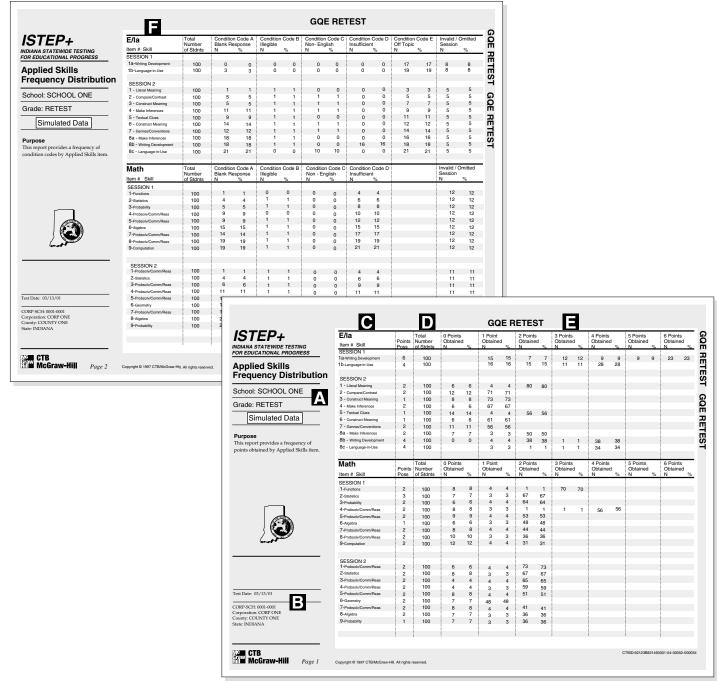
Name: ALLEN MARIA M

School: SCHOOL ONE Standard: 486
Test Date: 03/13/01 Obtained: 333

Retest Label (yellow)

Applied Skills Frequency Distribution

The Applied Skills Frequency Distribution report presents, at the school level, the number and percentage of students who obtained each score point for the individual Applied Skills items. This information can be used to determine if the students in your school show strengths and needs on specific Applied Skills items, and, therefore, in the Essential Skills that are assessed by these items.



Highlights of the Applied Skills Frequency Distribution

- A Indicates school and grade level.
- **B** Indicates the test date and identifies the corporation-school number, corporation, county, and state.
- C Identifies item number and the trait being scored (for items that are scored for more than one trait). Descriptions of each item and scoring rubrics and traits are found in the ISTEP+ Teacher's Scoring Guide.
- **D** Lists the total number of students receiving each score point.
- **E** Lists the number and percentage of students receiving each score point.
- **E** Lists by condition code the number and percentage of students with no response.

Condition Codes

A = Blank/no response

B = Illegible/unable to score

C = Written predominantly in language other than English/unable to score

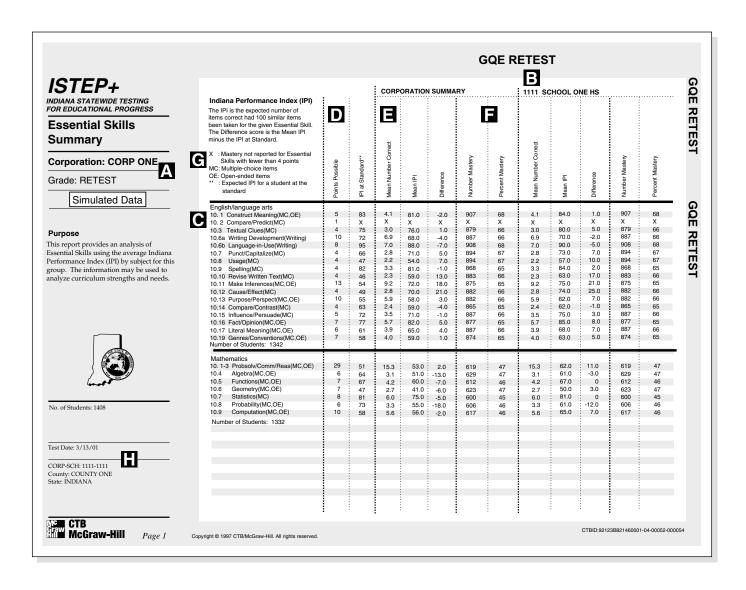
D = Insufficient response/unable to score/copied from text

E = Response not related to test question or scoring rule

Note: All condition codes convert to 0 points obtained

Essential Skills Summary

The corporation Essential Skills Summary provides criterion-referenced information from the *ISTEP+* achievement tests. It presents Essential Skill information summarizing the performance of students for individual schools by grade. Schools may contact their corporation Test Coordinator to request a copy of this report.

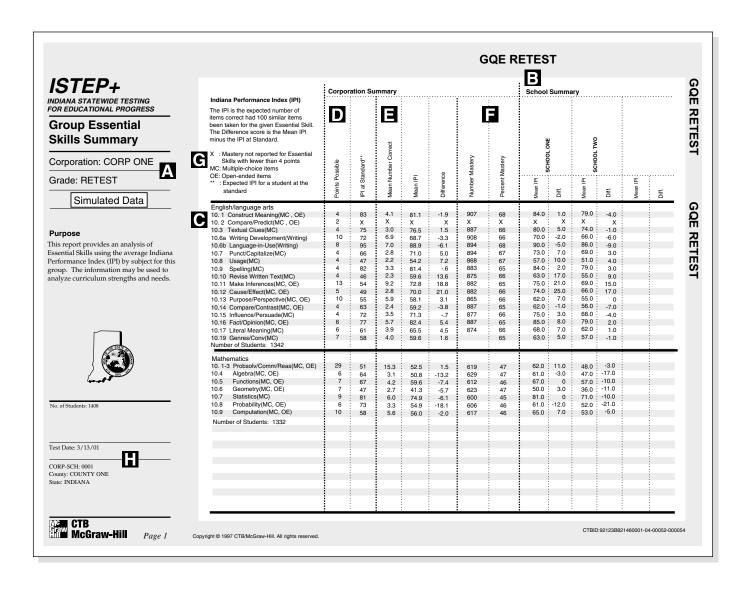


Highlights of the Essential Skills Summary

- A Identifies the corporation by name and grade level.
- **B** Identifies the name of an individual school (one school per page).
- **C** Lists Essential Skills for the grade.
- Presents the number of score points that assess each Essential Skill and the mean number of score points obtained by the students in your corporation by grade.
- E Lists the mean Indiana Performance Index (IPI) obtained by your students, the IPI at the standard, and the difference between the mean and standard IPI for each Essential Skill.
- **E** Lists the number of students and the percentage of students who obtained mastery of each Essential Skill (achieved an IPI at or above the standard).
- **G** Definition of report symbols and acronyms.
- Indicates the test date and identifies the corporation-school number, county, and state.

Group Essential Skills Summary

The corporation Essential Skills Summary provides criterion-referenced information from the *ISTEP+* achievement tests. It presents Essential Skill information for the grade, summarizing the performance of students for each school by grade. Schools may contact their corporation Test Coordinator to request a copy of this report.

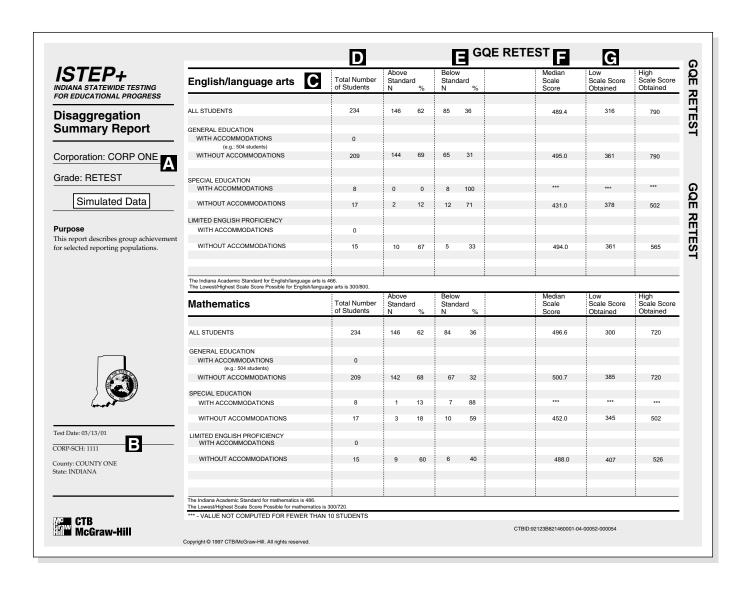


Highlights of the Group Essential Skills Summary

- A Identifies the corporation by name and grade level.
- **B** Lists schools alphabetically by name from left to right.
- **C** Lists Essential Skills for the grade.
- Presents the number of score points that assess each Essential Skill and the mean number of score points obtained by the students in your corporation by grade.
- **E** Lists the mean Indiana Performance Index (IPI) obtained by your students, the IPI at the standard, and the difference between the mean and standard IPI for each Essential Skill.
- Lists the number of students and the percentage of students who obtained mastery of each Essential Skill (achieved an IPI at or above the standard).
- **G** Definition of report symbols and acronyms.
- Indicates the test date and identifies the corporation-school number, county, and state.

Disaggregation Summary Report

The Disaggregation Summary Report presents, by subject, the total number of students with scores identified as above the standard and below the standard. This information is provided for all students as well as for various subgroups, e.g., special education students with accommodations and without accommodations. The Disaggregation Summary Report can be used to obtain information regarding various groups of students.

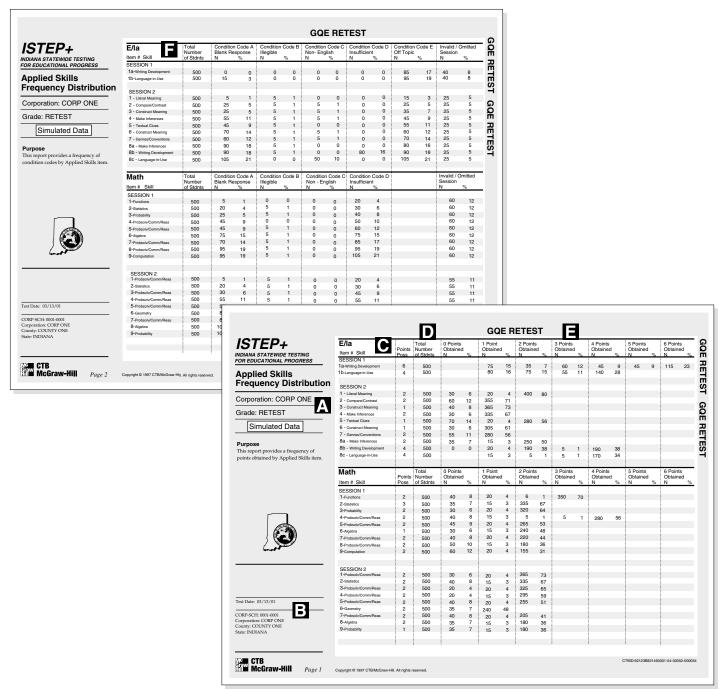


Highlights of the Disaggregation Summary Report

- A Identifies the corporation and grade level.
- **B** Indicates the test date and identifies the corporation-school number, county, and state.
- C Identifies the subgroups by subject. The Limited English Proficient (LEP) students are included in the general education or special education student counts.
- **D** Lists the total number of students.
- **E** Indicates the number and percent of students above standard and below standard.
- Indicates the median scale scores. (Not computed for groups with fewer than ten students.)
- **G** Indicates the lowest and highest scale scores obtained.

Applied Skills Frequency Distribution

The Applied Skills Frequency Distribution presents, at the corporation level, the number and percentage of students who obtained each score point for the individual Applied Skills items. This information can be used to determine if the students in your corporation show strengths and needs on specific Applied Skills items and, therefore, in the Essential Skills that are assessed by these items.



Highlights of the Applied Skills Frequency Distribution

- A Indicates corporation and grade level.
- **B** Indicates the test date and identifies the corporation-school number, county, and state.
- Identifies item number or the trait being scored (for items that are scored for more than one trait). Descriptions of each item and scoring rubrics and traits are found in the *ISTEP+Teacher's Scoring Guide*.
- **D** Lists the total number of students tested in the corporation.
- **E** Lists the number and percentage of students receiving each score point.
- **E** Lists by condition code the number and percentage of students with no response.

Condition Codes

A = Blank/no response

B = Illegible/unable to score

C = Written predominantly in language other than English/unable to score

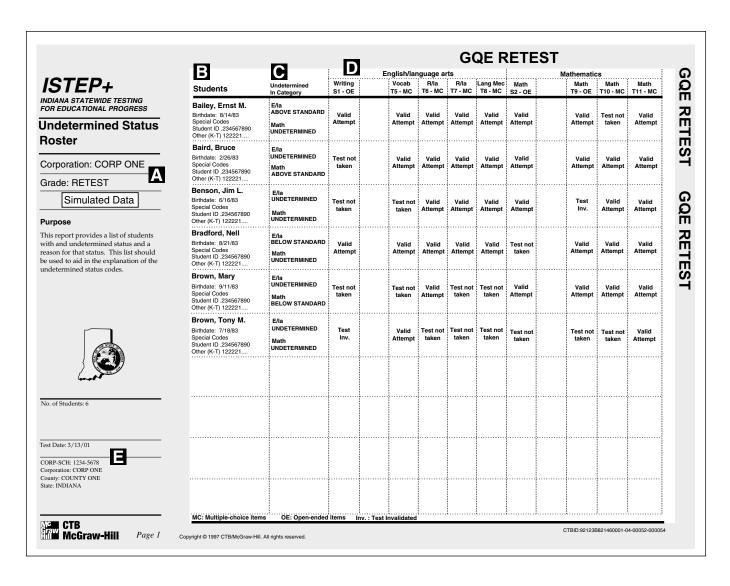
D = Insufficient response/unable to score/copied from text

E = Response not related to test question or scoring rule

Note: All condition codes convert to 0 points obtained

Undetermined Status Roster

This report provides a list of all students in the corporation who have an undetermined status. Students who fail to complete one or more subtests of the Applied Skills Assessment in English/language arts or mathematics are listed as undetermined. The report indicates whether the subtest was not taken or invalidated, thus explaining the reason for the undetermined status.

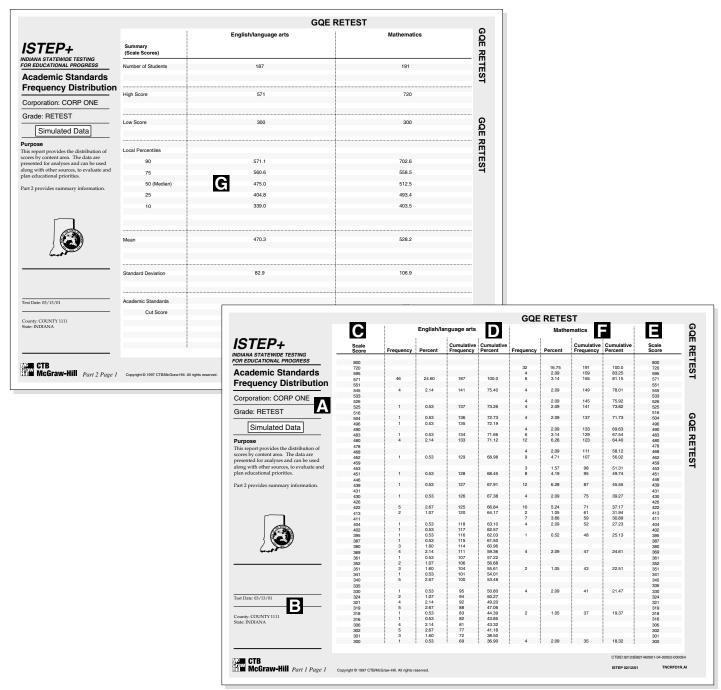


Highlights of the Undetermined Status Roster

- A Identifies the class by teacher name and grade level.
- **B** Lists students alphabetically who have an undetermined status in either English/language arts and/or mathematics.
- C Indicates whether the undetermined status is in English/language arts or mathematics.
- **D** Indicates which subtest was not completed.
- Indicates the test date and identifies the class by corporation-school number, corporation, county, and state.

Academic Standards Frequency Distribution

The Academic Standards Frequency Distribution provides the corporation administrator with the distribution of scale scores achieved by all the students tested in the corporation. The data are presented for analysis and can be used, along with other sources, to evaluate and plan education priorities.



Highlights of the Academic Standards Frequency Distribution

- A Identifies the corporation and grade level.
- **B** Indicates test date, county, and state.
- **C** Lists the scale scores achieved on the English/language arts test.
- **D** Shows the number and percentage of students who achieved each scale score on the English/language arts test.
- **E** Lists the scale scores achieved on the mathematics test.
- Shows the number and percentage of students who achieved each scale score on the mathematics test.
- Indicates the scale scores achieved by students at five local percentiles (90, 75, 50, 25, and 10).

Reference

Glossary

Criterion-Referenced Test

A test that reports students' scores relative to a body of information thought to be important to learn (see Essential Skills).

Essential Skills

Specific skills within the larger category of Indiana Academic Standards measured by *ISTEP+* criterion-referenced questions.

Indiana Academic Standards

To promote student academic achievement, the State Board of Education has adopted challenging standards for students in the following educational categories: reading comprehension, language mechanics/vocabulary, writing, mathematics basic skills, and mathematics applied skills. The standards are defined by a description of what a student should know and be able to do at the grade level completed by the student during the previous school year.

The Indiana Academic Standards define two general levels of knowledge and skill as follows:

Above the Standard: The student who scores at or above the Indiana Academic Standard in English/language arts or mathematics demonstrates mastery of these content areas.

Below the Standard: The student who does not score at or above the Indiana Academic Standard in all likelihood needs remedial assistance to be successful at the current grade level.

In addition, a category referred to as *Undetermined* is for learners whose *ISTEP+* scores for English/language arts or mathematics are incomplete (i.e., all or a part of the test was not taken or was considered invalid by the examiner).

Indiana Academic Standards (Cut Scores)

The scale scores adopted by the State Board of Education which define the point of academic mastery in the English/language arts and mathematics content areas as measured by the *ISTEP+* assessment (see Indiana Academic Standards and Indiana Scale Score).

Indiana Performance Index

The Indiana Performance Index (IPI) is an indication of a student's performance on the individual Essential Skills that are measured by *ISTEP+*. It represents the expected number of items that the student would answer correctly if the student had taken 100 similar items for a specific Essential Skill.

Indiana Scale Score

Student achievement levels relative to the Indiana Academic Standards are reported by *ISTEP+* scale scores. These three-digit equal-interval scores are expressed on unique scales by content area (English/language arts and mathematics). *ISTEP+* scale scores typically will range from about 300 to about 850.

Glossary

Mean

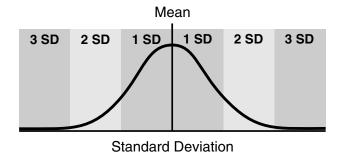
The mean is the arithmetic average of a group of scores. It is calculated by adding the scores and dividing the sum by the number of scores.

Median

The median is defined as the score below which 50% of the cases fall. The median and the 50th percentile are the same.

Standard Deviation (SD)

A statistic that indicates the amount of variability in a group of scores. When scores are normally distributed (i.e., when they are part of a bell-shaped, "normal" curve), about two-thirds of the scores are within one SD above and below the average (mean) score, and about 95% of scores are within 2 SDs of the mean. In almost any shaped distribution, all scores will be within 5 SDs of the mean score.



Standardized Test

A test administered in accordance with explicit directions for uniform administration.

Test Section

A subtest covering part of a given content area. For example, the test for the mathematics content area might be divided into two test sections or subtests: 1) Computation and 2) Concepts and Applications.

Sample Letter to Parents

Dear Parent:

All public school students who are eligible to participate are required to pass the Indian Statewide Testing for Educational Progress (*ISTEP+*) Graduation Qualifying Examination in order to qualify for a State-recognized diploma. Students are provided with five opportunities to pass this test—in the fall of Grade 10 and in the spring and fall of Grades 11 and 12.

Your son or daughter participated in the *ISTEP+* Spring 2001 GQE retest administration in either English/language arts, mathematics, or both. A student report is available for your review.

If your son's or daughter's overall achievement score in either subject is AT or ABOVE the standard set for the Indiana Academic Standards, as established by the State Board of Education, then he or she has "met the standard" in that subject area and will not be required to retest in that subject.

Students who have not met the Indiana Academic Standards in one or both subjects are eligible for remediation and will be allowed to participate in future retest administrations.

Sincerely,



20 Ryan Ranch Road Monterey, California 93940-5703

Guide to Test Interpretation

